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Romania

Poultry and Products

EU requirements – an obstacle for U.S. poultry exports

2006

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Report Highlights:

Romania has effectively shut-down all exports of U.S. poultry. A new Romanian veterinary order—which implies that Romania can effectively enforce the EU's veterinary/sanitary regulations—will bring to an end U.S. poultry exports. The order is the result of an effort to protect the Romanian poultry industry, which is trying to recover from losses due to persistent outbreaks of Avian Influenza. FAS Bucharest is attempting to negotiate a new health certificate that will lead to a re-opening of the market.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Sofia [BU1]
[RO]

On May 5, 2006 the National Sanitary-Veterinary and for Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) published Veterinary Order no. 95 stating that the EU health certificate model would be enforced in 90 days from publication, which is August 5, 2006. However, following pressure from domestic producers challenged with sharp consumption drops, the NSVFSA published an amendment to Order 95, on June 2, 2006.

According to the new provisions, the current sanitary-veterinary requirements are valid for 5 more days after the publication date. This means that the last day of validity for the current Health certificate model is June 7. Poultry meat shipments accompanied by veterinary documents signed before or on June 7 would be accepted for importation in Romania assuming they arrive before August 5, 2006.

Furthermore, the Veterinary Order stipulates that the EU health certificate model as well as the new Health Mark would become valid starting with June 8, 2006. As emphasized in the previous report, these provisions are equivalent to a total ban on fresh poultry meat from United States, as no U.S. poultry plants are approved for export to the European Union.

Poultry meat shipments from United States reached \$63 million last year and a similar value was expected this year, if no changes in legislation would have occurred. Given the impact of the recent regulation, FAS Bucharest will attempt to achieve an extension in the date of application for the new Health Certificate until Romania's EU membership.